

## Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /116 W

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R 011835Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0475

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 16077

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: FR, IN, PFOR

SUBJECT: FRENCH VIEW OF FRANCO/INDIAN CONSULTATIONS

1. QUAI DIRECTOR FOR ASIA, FROMENT-MEURICE, TOLD POLITICAL COUNSELLOR JUNE 29 THAT LAST WEEK'S SESSION OF THE REGULAR FRANCO-INDIAN CONSULTATIONS HAD CONSTITUTED A VERY USEFUL TOUR D'HRIZON OF WORLD PROBLEMS. WITH RESPECT TO THE INDIAN OCEAN, THE INDIANS EXPRESSED NO PARTICULAR ANIMOSITY TOWARD THE US BECAUSE OF DIEGO GARCIA. WHAT TROUBLES THE INDIANS IN THIS CONTEXT IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT US/UK PLANS TO EXPAND THE DIEGO GARCIA FACILITY MIGHT ENCOURAGE -- OR SERVE AS A PRETEXT FOR -- SOVIET EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH A BASE IN THE MALDIVES. FROMENT-MEURICE SAID IT SEEMED CLEAR THAT INDIA WOULD REFUSE TO PROVIDE A BASE TO THE SOVIETS ON ITS TERRITORY.

2. THE INDIANS SHOWED THEY WERE VERY HAPPY WITH THE SUCCESS OF THEIR NUCLEAR TEST. THEY REPEATED THEIR ASSURANCES THAT THEY HAD ONLY PEACEFUL INTENTIONS, AND FROMENT-MEURICE THOUGHT THERE WAS NO REASON TO DOUBT SUCH ASSERTIONS WHILE MADAME GANDHIREMAINED  
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PRIME MINISTER.

3. THE INDIANS SAID THAT THEY WOULD MAINTAIN THEIR  
ACTIVE EFFORTS TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN.

4. FROMENT-MEURICE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT SOME  
INDIAN LEADERS WERE VERY ANTI-CHINESE WHILE OTHERS  
WERE LESS SO. HE THOUGHT THAT THE INDIANS WISHED TO  
NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH CHINA, BUT THEY WERE ALL  
RELUCTANT TO APPEAR TO BE THE PETITIONER (DEMANDEUR).  
HENCE THEY WERE IN NO HURRY TO WORK OUT A DETENTE.  
THE USSR PERHAPS WISHED BAD RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA  
AND CHINA, BUT THE INDIANS INCREASINGLY SAW THE  
DISADVANTAGES OF AN OPEN QUARREL WITH THE PRC.  
STONE

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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30 JUN 2005

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